

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140961

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 08020 ACTION SECSTATE DATED MAY 24, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 08020

FOR: IO/LAB MILLS; S/IL GOOD

PASS: LABOR FOR SAMUEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLAB

SUBJECT: ILO: SYRIAN AND LIBYAN RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL

1. MISSION HAS OBTAINED ADVANCE COPY OF A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY SYRIA AND LIBYA CALLING ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO IMPLEMENT THE 9TH RESOLUTION OF THE 59TH ILO CONFERENCE
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(1974 RESOLUTION) "CONCERNING THE POLICY OF DISCRIMINATION, RACISM AND VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS PRACTICED BY THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES IN PALESTINE AND TO REPORT ON THE RESOLUTION DURING THE NEXT SESSIONS OF THE ILC IN OTHER ARAB OCCUPIED TERRITORIES," TEXT FOLLOWS:
RESOLUTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 9 OF THE 59TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE CON-

CERNING THE POLICY OF DISCRIMINATION, RACISM AND VIOLATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS PRACTISED BY THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES IN PALESTINE AND IN OTHER ARAB OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION TAKING NOTE OF THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE TO THE 64TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE;

RECALLING ITS RESOLUTION 9 OF THE 59TH SESSION 1974 CONCERNING THE POLICY OF DISCRIMINATION, RACISM AND VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS IN PALESTINE AND IN THE OTHER OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES,

REQUESTS THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT THE ABOVE MENTIONED RESOLUTION TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN TIMES OF WAR DATED 12 AUGUST 1949 AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND TO REPORT THE NEXT SESSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

2. THE RESOLUTION WAS SUBMITTED ON MAY 23, THE FINAL DAY FOR SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTIONS. ILO OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE SYRIAN INITIATIVE, SINCE OTHER ARAB SPOKESMEN HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT NO RESOLUTION CONFIDENTIAL

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AGAINST ISRAEL WOULD BE PRESENTED THIS YEAR.

3. ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE ILO OFFICIAL OPINED THAT THE RESOLUTION APPEARS TO BE HASTILY DRAFTED AND MAY HAVE BEEN PRESENTED BECAUSE OF ARAB SUCCESS IN GETTING AN ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION THROUGH THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (GENEVA 1948).

4. US WAS PROVIDED WITH THE ADVANCE COPY IN RECOGNITION OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN ISSUES RELATED TO ISRAEL. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TREAT THE INFORMATION AS SENSITIVE AND CONFIDENTIAL. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 17 OF THE ILO STANDING ORDERS, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS 48 HOURS, OR UNTIL FRIDAY MORNING (GENEVA TIME) TO DECIDE WHETHER TO CIRCULATE THE RESOLUTION AMONG MEMBER STATES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DG MAY USE THE INTERIM PERIOD TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THE SPONSORS OF THE RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW IT. IF UNSUCCESSFUL, THE DG WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE OBLIGATED TO CIRCULATE THE RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ILO CONSTITUTION. AT THAT TIME, THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS OTHER IMEC COUNTRIES MAY BE REQUESTED.

5. ILO OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE RESOLUTION MEETS THE APPROPRIATE CRITERIA OF THE ILO CONSTITUTION FOR SUBMISSION. THEY BELIEVE THAT ALTHOUGH THE DG HAS THE AUTHORITY UNDER ARTICLE 17 TO WITHHOLD CIRCULATION OF THE RESOLUTION PENDING CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNING BODY, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR TAKING SUCH A STEP. VANDEN HEUVEL
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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